

five years ago, we looked over the chapter on "anæsthetic mixtures" with unusual interest. It does not bear that evidence of practical acquaintance with this branch of the subject which gives value to what the author has to say. It is stated that the A.-C.-E. mixture "needs careful watching;" and we ask if it is herein different from any other anæsthetic? It is also stated that deaths have occurred during its use, but facts to support the statement, or references to authorities are lacking. A careful scrutiny of periodical and other literature has yielded but a single fatal casualty with this mixture.¹ It is with regret that we find repeated here the objection to this mixture based on the different rates of evaporation of its three components. This is a laboratory objection transferred to the clinical field and will not bear examination.

Mixed narcosis, as produced by the combined effect of morphia and chloroform, is mildly endorsed, and the addition of atropia to the morphia given hypodermatically before the inhalation, is very justly considered of great value. The author gives Kappeler's adverse opinion as to the combined effect of ether with morphia, and expresses doubts of its sound clinical basis. "Certainly in cases at University College Hospital in which the method was employed no great struggling or inconvenience was observed." A very considerable experience with the combination of morphia and atropia preceding the A.-C.-E. mixture, which is half ether, has failed to give any evidence of the correctness of Kappeler's views upon this point.

The chapter on anæsthetics in obstetric practice is very brief and, we regret to say, not worthy of the important subject considered. We refer to it only for one or two points. On page 19 the author says "chloroform can be in no way deemed freer from liability to danger in childbirth than at any other time." On page 111, considering the objection that this agent increases the mortality of mothers and children, he says, "statistics certainly negative this statement." The author may reconcile the statements. The truth is, that the clinical experience of the world has shown a wonderful immunity to accidents from chloroform on the part of the parturient woman. So marked has this been that numerous and ingenious theories have been devised to explain the striking but happy fact. We wish the author had told us in this chapter why, "in primiparæ, chloroform must be given very moderately."

We trust that a new edition of this little work will be prepared, which, abbreviated in some portions and extended in others, will make an excellent manual for the student.

J. C. R.

INTRACRANIAL TUMORS. By BRYOM BRAMWELL, M.D., Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the Extra-Academical School of Medicine, Edinburgh. With 116 illustrations. 8vo. pp. xiv. 270. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1888.

It is always interesting to read a work based upon the careful clinical and pathological observations of a man of wide experience, for it is sure to contain original views and to form an addition to the knowledge of

¹ Reported by Dr. Morton, *AMER. JOURN. MED. SCIENCES*, October, 1876, p. 415.

the subject treated. Dr. Bramwell has chosen a subject of special importance at the present time when the claims of cerebral surgery in the treatment of intracranial tumors are being urged and discussed, and as this is the only monograph in English upon the subject it will be widely read.

The first half of the book is devoted to the symptomatology of brain tumors in general. Clinically cases may be divided into four classes: (1) those in which no symptoms are present; (2) those in which general symptoms of an intracranial tumor are found but in which there are no symptoms indicated of its exact site; (3) those in which the symptoms indicate not only a tumor but its exact location; (4) those in which there are distinct indications of derangement or disease of the intracranial contents, and in which the symptoms may be due to the presence of an intracranial tumor but are not typical and characteristic of that condition. Each of the distinguishing general symptoms of brain tumors is carefully discussed, viz., headache, vertigo, vomiting, and double optic neuritis. In regard to the last, the author holds that the affection is not always produced in the same manner. He admits the possibility of a descending neuritis, but inclines very strongly to the Leber-Deutschmann theory that increased intracranial pressure combined with some irritating substance in the cerebro-spinal fluid sets up the neuritis, though he admits the hypothetical nature of this substance. The chapter on optic neuritis presents the subject clearly and states concisely the various theories as to its cause. The localizing symptoms are then detailed briefly but clearly, the chief facts being stated and fuller discussion postponed to the section in which the diagnosis of the localization of the tumor is treated. In this section some of the most recent discoveries seem to have been overlooked—*e. g.*, the discovery that the cuneus is the visual centre, but as the book is based on lectures delivered a year ago this is not surprising, for progress in cerebral diagnosis is very rapid.

The chapters on differential diagnosis are well written. Three questions are considered separately: 1. Is there an intracranial tumor? 2. If so, where is it situated? 3. What is its pathological nature? Under the first question the differentiation of Bright's disease, lead encephalopathy, hypermetropia with anæmia, atrophy of the brain, migraine, hysteria, meningitis, cerebral abscess, and hemorrhage from cerebral tumor are carefully discussed, and some difficulties cleared up. The only criticism which may here be offered is that in some cases two or more of these conditions are present, as well as cerebral tumor, and in such cases diagnosis becomes very difficult. This section, however, will be of service to the general practitioner as well as to the neurologist, as it is a suggestive one.

In considering the second question, the subject of cerebral localization is presented concisely, due importance being given to the necessity of separating direct local symptoms from indirect or pseudo-localizing symptoms produced by disturbances of circulation or function at a distance from the actual seat of the disease. The symptoms produced by tumors situated in various portions of the brain are then discussed. By this arrangement repetition is inevitable and constant cross references between the chapter on the localizing symptoms and this chapter are necessary and it seems unfortunate that the two should not have been combined into one. The third question as to the pathological nature

of the tumor, is carefully considered and all the indications which can throw light on this very obscure field of diagnosis are given. The last chapter is devoted to the surgical treatment of intracranial tumors and is written by Mr. A. W. Hare. This is decidedly meagre, but nine pages being given up to it and many important details being entirely omitted. This is especially unfortunate, as it is the practical side of the subject that at present excites much interest.

The work then presents in an acceptable manner—exclusive of the last chapter—the important subject with which it deals, and is a valuable contribution to medical literature. The only criticism which may be offered is that the author has not embodied in it the results of other observers, notably Bernhardt and the German writers and therefore the work is less complete than might have been expected from his previous writings.

M. A. S.

INTUBATION OF THE LARYNX. By F. E. WAXHAM, M.D. 12mo. pp. 110. Illustrated. Chicago: Charles Truax, 1888.

THIS little volume is a detailed exposition of the very important procedure which Prof. Waxham has done so much to popularize. It is appropriately dedicated to Dr. O'Dwyer, whose name will be prominent in the history of medicine in connection with intubation of the larynx.

One hundred and fifty cases of intubation by the author for diphtheria are narrated with sufficient detail for due appreciation of their import; and a table of one hundred cases by Dr. O'Dwyer is appended. Of the 150 cases intubated by Waxham 41 recovered, and of the 100 by O'Dwyer 27 recovered; a striking similarity in result. It is pleasant to learn that the proportion of recoveries at a tender age far exceeds that which follows tracheotomy. Every detail necessary in studying and practising this important manipulatory procedure is duly presented in Prof. Waxham's manual, and is admirably illustrated. We are pleased to see that the author advises the precautionary use of an antiseptic respirator by the operator during his manœuvres.

By means of an artificial epiglottis attached to the tube the author has been able in some instances to overcome the difficulty in swallowing water and liquid nourishment which has been such an obstacle in the after-treatment. We would call especial attention to the advice of the author that great care should be taken to see that all the appliances used are carefully constructed, in order that unnecessary disappointments and accidents may not follow their use.

We earnestly recommend all physicians who intend to practise intubation to study this working manual of Prof. Waxham, as their best method of avoiding much unsatisfactory experience inseparable from practising a novel operation under such important conditions as those calling for intubation of the larynx. Intubation, while it is not expected to supersede tracheotomy in all instances, will save many a sufferer from an otherwise inevitable tracheotomy, and save from death many more in whose behalf tracheotomy is refused, or whose surroundings are such as to deny them the subsequent supervision necessary to secure all the ad-